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Ministry of Forests and Range

SLIAMMON FIRST NATION ISSUED COMMUNITY FOREST AGREEMENT

SLIAMMON – The Province has issued Tla'Amin Timber Products Ltd., a company controlled by the Sliammon First Nation, a five-year probationary community forest agreement, Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

"This agreement will help develop forestry operations and create jobs," Coleman said. "The community forest will create benefits for the Sliammon First Nation that will extend along the Sunshine Coast."

The agreement grants Tla'Amin Timber Products the right to an annual harvest of 28,000 cubic metres of timber on public forest lands in the Sunshine Coast Forest District. The community forest will be divided between two locations, one near Bunster Range and the other near the north end of Haslam Lake.

"The Sliammon people have been the historical stewards of these areas for many years, and we'll be continuing that with the operation of a community forest," said Clint Williams, director of Tla'Amin Timber Products. "We welcome the agreement's long-term employment and economic potential and look forward to contributing to a recovering forestry sector."

Probationary community forest agreements are a form of legal tenure that enable communities to more fully participate in the stewardship of local Crown forest resources. They are area-based, and give communities exclusive rights to harvest timber, as well as the opportunity to manage forest resources such as timber and botanical forest products, recreation, wildlife, water and scenic viewscapes.

Community forests are intended to stimulate long-term employment, forest-related education and skills training, as well as other social, environmental and economic benefits, while meeting environmental stewardship standards. After an initial term of five years, the agreements may be extended for an additional term of up to five years or replaced with a long-term agreement of not less than 25 years.

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